



State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game  
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form  
Fish Distribution Database



Region SCN USGS Quad(s) CORDOVA B-3, C-3, ~~D-3~~  
 Fish Distribution Database Number of Waterway 212-20-10080  
 Name of Waterway Copper River  USGS Name  Local Name  
 Addition  Deletion  Correction  Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination # <u>05 011</u>	<u>[Signature]</u> ADF&G Fisheries Scientist	<u>1/6/06</u> Date
Revision Year: <u>2007</u>	<u>[Signature]</u> ADNR OHMP Operations Mgr.	<u>1/6/06</u> Date
Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____ Both <u>X</u>	<u>[Signature]</u> FDD Project Biologist	<u>06/29/05</u> Date
Revision Code: <u>B-1</u>	<u>[Signature]</u> Cartographer	<u>2/3/06</u> Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

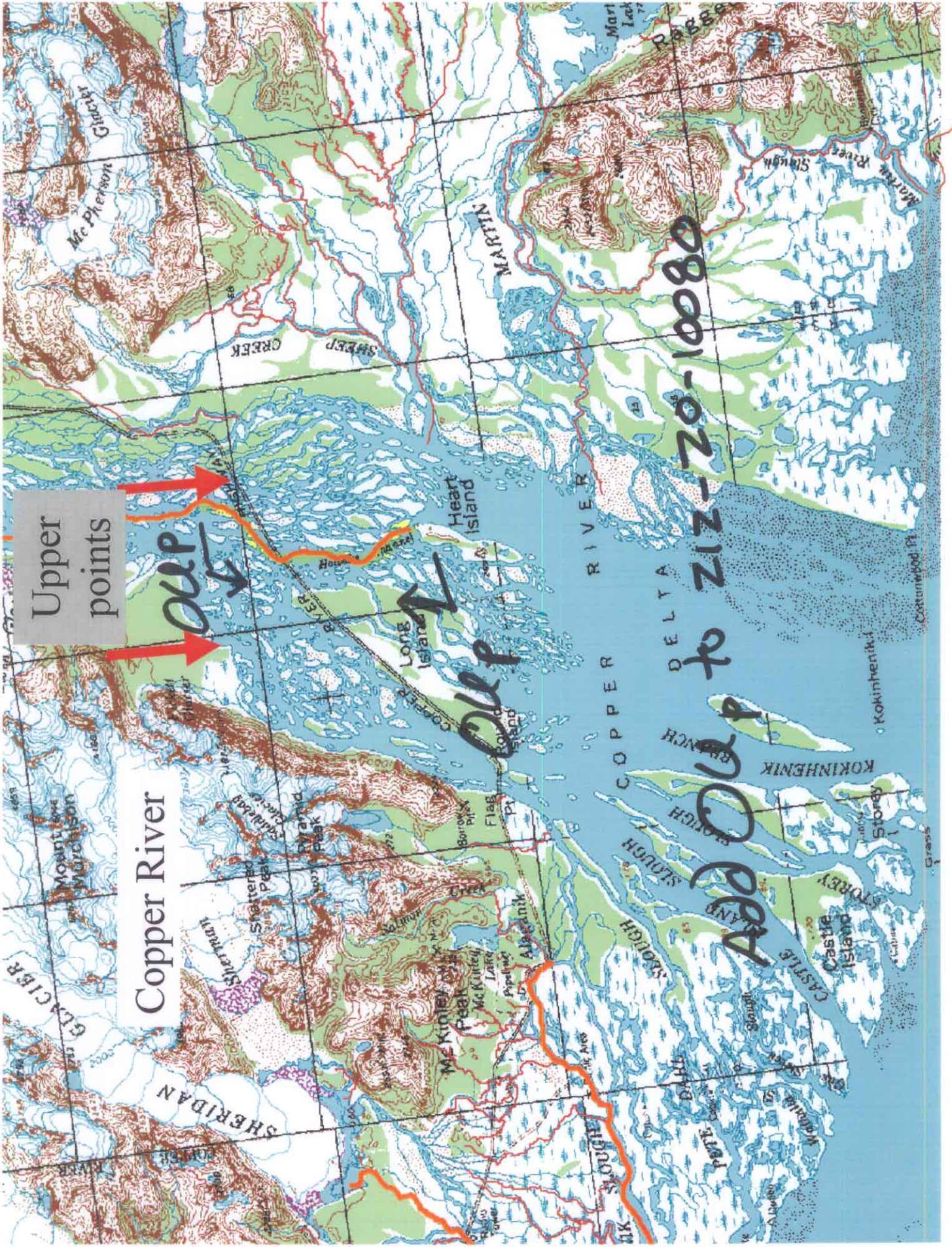
Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
<u>Bullchuck</u>	<u>1998-2004</u>			<u>X</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>

**IMPORTANT:** Provide all supporting documentation that this water body is important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fish, including: number of fish and life stages observed; sampling methods, sampling duration and area sampled; copies of field notes; etc. Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and observed upper extent of each species, as well as other information such as: specific stream reaches observed as spawning or rearing habitat; locations, types, and heights of any barriers; etc.

**Comments:**  
Add Oup to existing stream  
presence cited in commercial fisheries Div RIP  
2A02-34  
 ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME  
 APR 13 2005

Name of Observer (please print): Steve Moffitt  
 Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/13/05  
 Agency: ADF&G  
 Address: Box 669  
Cordova, Ak 99574

This certifies that in my best professional judgment and belief the above information is evidence that this waterbody should be included in or deleted from the Fish Distribution Database.  
 Signature of Area Biologist: [Signature] Date: 4/13/05 Revision 02/05  
 Name of Area Biologist (please print): Steven D. Moffitt



Upper points

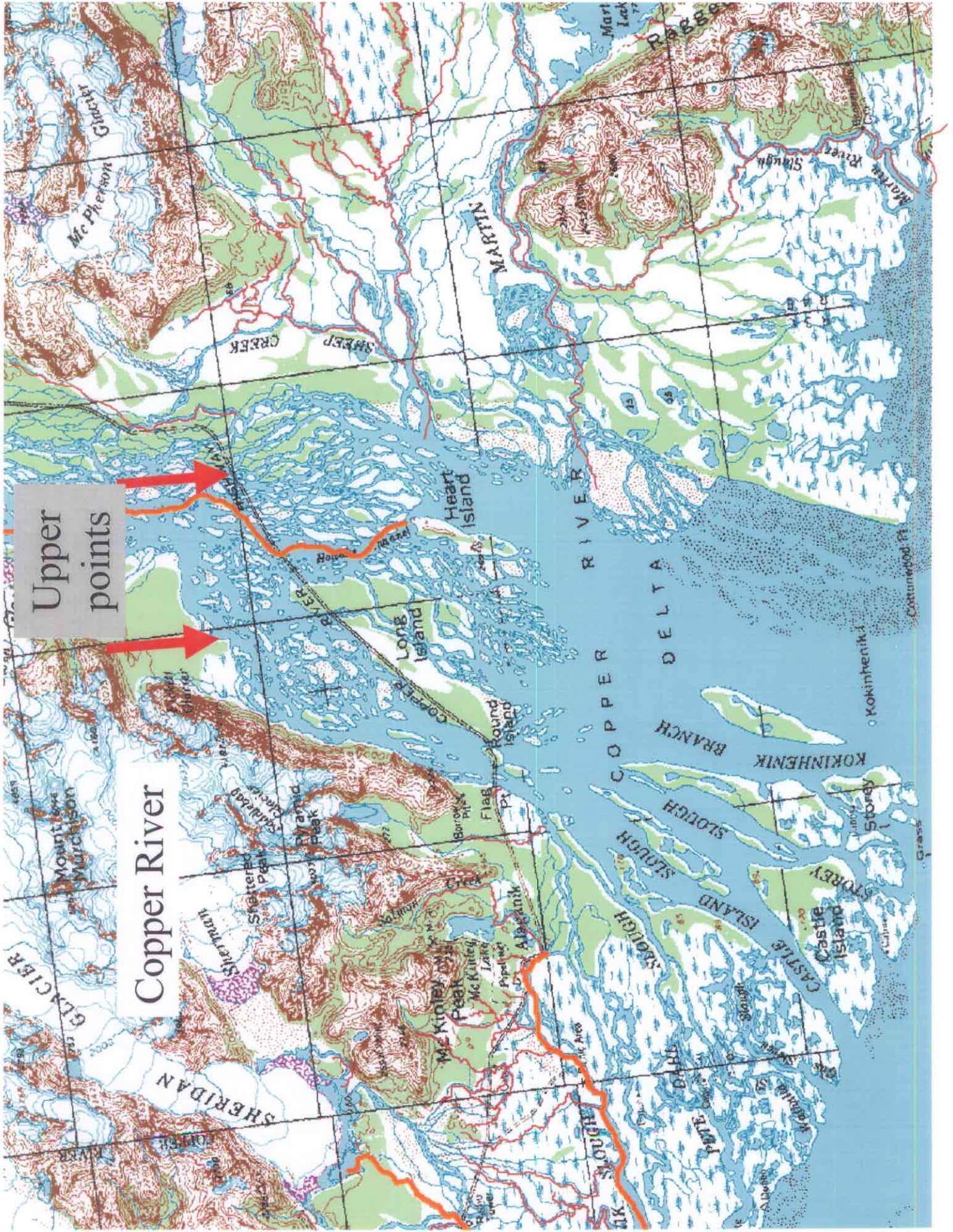
Copper River

OUP to ZIZ-20-10080

OUP

OUP

OUP



Upper  
points

Copper River

**Copper River locations examined for eulachon by ADF&G employees, 1998-2004. This table does not include fish documented in Eulachon Subsistence opportunities final report. See USFS/NVE/ADF&G report.**

Locations	Bridge Number	Year	Fish Present?	Earliest documented	Approximate Timing		Latest documented	Comments
					Begin	End		
Surveyed								
Sheridan River		1998	NA					Not surveyed
Sheridan River		1999	NA					Not surveyed
Sheridan River		2000	NA					Not surveyed
Sheridan River		2001	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Sheridan River		2002	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Sheridan River		2003	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Sheridan River		2004	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Scott River		1998	NA					Not surveyed
Scott River		1999	NA					Not surveyed
Scott River		2000	NA					Not surveyed
Scott River		2001	Y	02/01	02/01 - 02/03			Only time documented in Scott River
Scott River		2002	NA					Not surveyed
Scott River		2003	NA					Not surveyed
Scott River		2004	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Ibeck Creek		1998	N					
Ibeck Creek		1999	N					
Ibeck Creek		2000	N					
Ibeck Creek		2001	Y		01/28 - 03/17			
Ibeck Creek		2002	N					
Ibeck Creek		2003	Y		02/11 - 02/27			
Ibeck Creek		2004	Y		03/15 - 04/10			Checked ~ 3-4 days
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	BR 331, BR 1187	1998	Y		05/20 - 06/01			
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	BR 331, BR 1187	1999	Y		05/21 - ?			Several surveys
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	BR 331, BR 1187	2000	Y		05/19 - 05/28			
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	BR 331, BR 1187	2001	Y	03/17	05/19 - 05/30		06/24	
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	BR 331, BR 1187	2002	Y		05/25 - 06/01			
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	BR 331, BR 1187	2003	Y	03/03	05/22 - 06/04			
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	BR 331, BR 1187	2004	Y		05/15 - 06/02			
Eyak River		1998	NA					Not surveyed
Eyak River		1999	NA					Not surveyed
Eyak River		2000	NA					Not surveyed
Eyak River		2001	NA					Not surveyed

**Copper River locations examined for eulachon by ADF&G employees, 1998-2004. This table does not include fish documented in Eulachon Subistence opportunities final report. See USFS/NVE/ADF&G report.**

Locations	Bridge Number	Year	Fish Present ?	Earliest documented	Approximate Timing		Latest documented	Comments
					Begin -	End		
Surveyed						06/15 -	06/23	
Eyak River		2002	Y					
Eyak River		2003	Y	02/22				Not surveyed
Eyak River		2004	NA					Not surveyed
Elsner River		1998	NA					Not surveyed
Elsner River		1999	NA					Not surveyed
Elsner River		2000	NA					Not surveyed
Elsner River		2001	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Elsner River		2002	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Elsner River		2003	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Elsner River		2004	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	BR 340	1998	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	BR 340	1999	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	BR 340	2000	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	BR 340	2001	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	BR 340	2002	Y		05/28			Single survey
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	BR 340	2003	Y		05/28 -	05/30		Checked every day 5/15 through 6/3
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	BR 340	2004	N					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	BR 339	1998	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	BR 339	1999	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	BR 339	2000	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	BR 339	2001	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	BR 339	2002	Y		05/28			Single survey
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	BR 339	2003	Y		05/28 -	05/30		Checked every day 5/15 through 6/3
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	BR 339	2004	N					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	BR 336	1998	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	BR 336	1999	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	BR 336	2000	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	BR 336	2001	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	BR 336	2002	Y		05/28			Single survey
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	BR 336	2003	Y		05/28 -	05/30		Checked every day 5/15 through 6/3
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	BR 336	2004	N					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	BR 334	1998	NA					Not surveyed

**Copper River locations examined for eulachon by ADF&G employees, 1998-2004. This table does not include fish documented in Eulachon Subistence opportunities final report. See USFS/NVE/ADF&G report.**

Locations Surveyed	Bridge Number	Year	Fish Present ?	Earliest documented	Approximate Timing		Latest documented	Comments
					Begin -	End		
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	BR 334	1999	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	BR 334	2000	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	BR 334	2001	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	BR 334	2002	Y		05/28			Single survey
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	BR 334	2003	Y		05/28 -	05/30		Checked every day 5/15 through 6/3
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	BR 334	2004	N					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	1998	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	1999	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	2000	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	2001	NA					Not surveyed
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	2002	Y		05/28			Single survey
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	2003	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	2004	N					Checked every day 5/15 through 6/3
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	BR 333	1998	Y		05/17 - ?		June	Single day of commercial harvest
Alaganic Slough		1999	Y				June	Lots of dead fish in early June
Alaganic Slough		2000	Y					
Alaganic Slough		2001	Y	02/19				
Alaganic Slough		2002	Y		06/18			Single survey
Alaganic Slough		2003	Y		02/23			
Alaganic Slough		2004	Y	02/25	03/28 -	04/10		Checked ~ 3-4 days
Alaganic Slough		1998	Y		05/25 - ?			Single survey
37-Mile Channel, Copper River	BR 342	1999	N					Several surveys
37-Mile Channel, Copper River	BR 342	2000	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
37-Mile Channel, Copper River	BR 342	2001	N					Several surveys when fish in other systems
37-Mile Channel, Copper River	BR 342	2002	Y		05/28 -	05/31		
37-Mile Channel, Copper River	BR 342	2003	N		05/28 -	05/30		
37-Mile Channel, Copper River	BR 342	2004	N					Checked every day 5/15 through 6/3

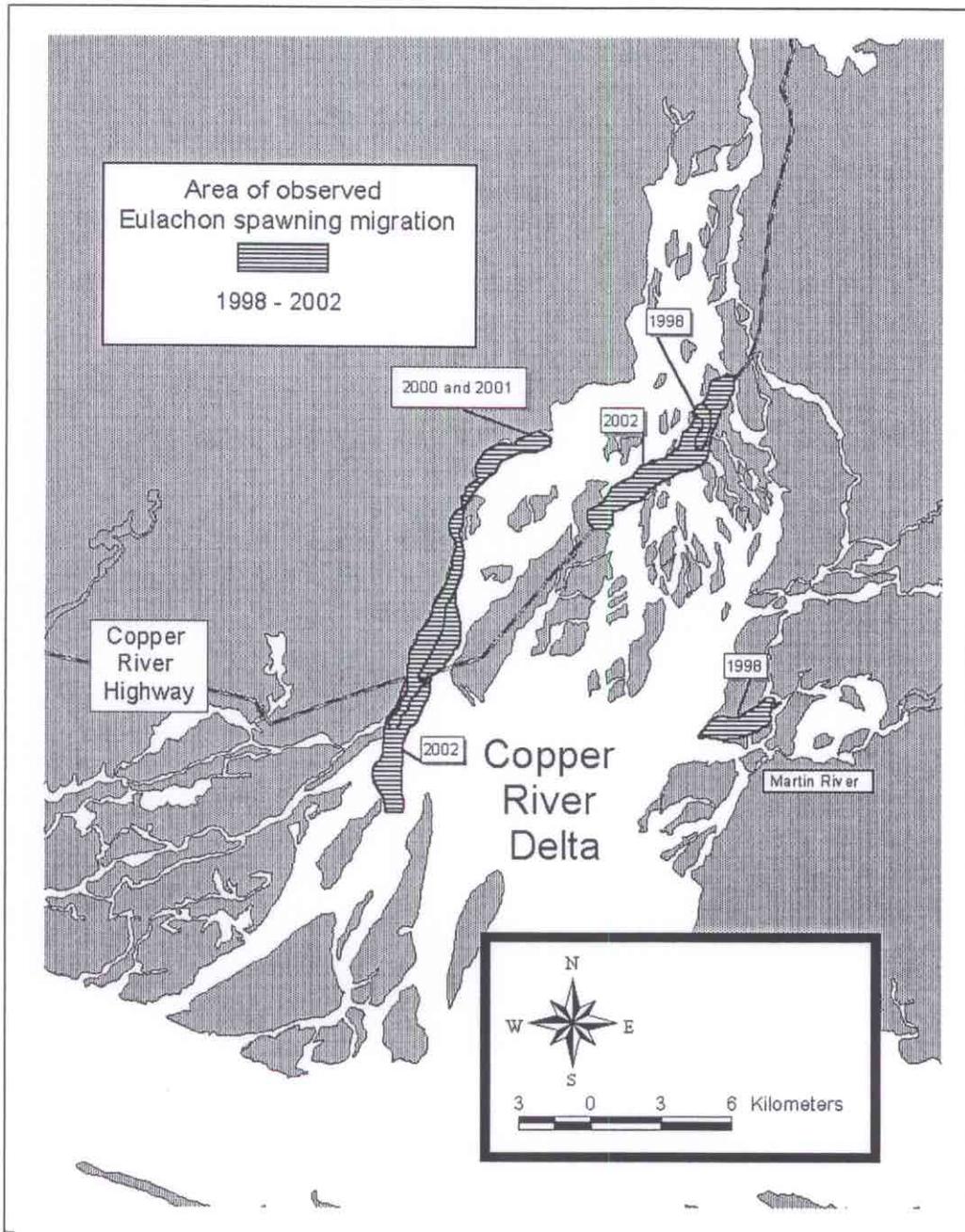


Figure 6. Location of adult eulachon in the Copper River, 1998-2002. This does not represent documented spawning areas, but only areas where adult eulachon were present.

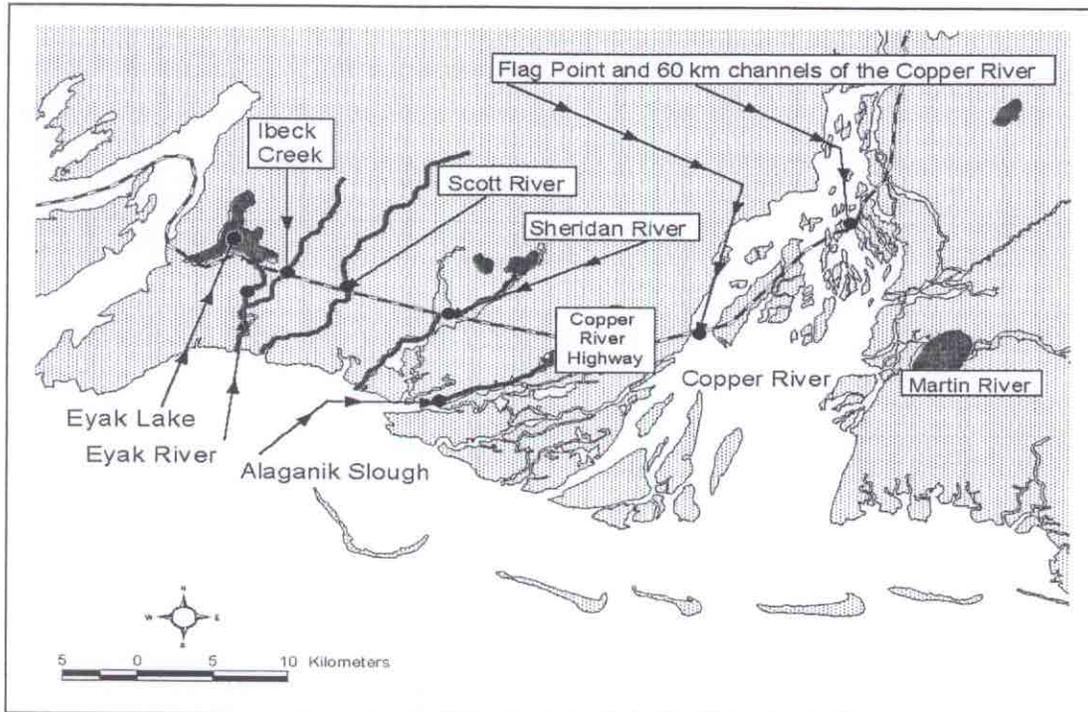


Figure 1. Copper River delta downstream of Miles Lake along with selected drainage systems.

Other systems crossed by the Copper River Highway from west to east include the Eyak River, Ibeck Creek, Scott River, Elsner River, Sheridan River, and Alaganik Slough. The Scott River, Elsner River, and Sheridan River are feed by glacial waters. All the other delta rivers have increased turbidity from glacial inflow on a seasonal or sporadic basis.

#### Age, Weight, Length, and Sex Ratio

In 1998 samples were collected daily from the commercial harvest at Flag Point Channel. We collected daily samples because we lacked information on the number of age classes in the run and the extent of temporal changes. An examination of the marginal precision gain with each stratum indicated very little increase after three strata ( $< 2\%$ ; Cochrane 1977). Therefore, after 1998 we attempted to collect samples from the early, middle, and late timing of each run. Sample sizes ( $n = 450$ ) were set to simultaneously estimate all the age proportions within  $\pm 5\%$  of the true proportion, 90% of the time (Thompson 1992). This assumed random sampling from a multinomial population with less than 5% of the otoliths being unreadable.

In 2000 and 2001, samples were collected near the beginning, middle, and end of the major run in Flag Point Channel. Samples were also collected at Alaganik Slough in 2000 and Ibeck Creek in 2001. In 2002 samples were collected near the beginning and

### Timing of delta stocks, 1998-2004

Surveyed	Data	Present ?						
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
37-Mile Channel, Copper River	Min of Begin Max of End	Y 5/25 1/0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Alaganic Slough	Min of Begin Max of End	5/17 1/0				6/18	2/23	3/28 4/10
Copper River Channel (BR 333)	Min of Begin Max of End					5/28		
Copper River Channel (BR 334)	Min of Begin Max of End					5/28	5/28 5/30	
Copper River Channel (BR 336)	Min of Begin Max of End					5/28	5/28 5/30	
Copper River Channel (BR 339)	Min of Begin Max of End					5/28	5/28 5/30	
Copper River Channel (BR 340)	Min of Begin Max of End					5/28	5/28 5/30	
Eyak River	Min of Begin Max of End					6/15 6/23		
Flag Point Channel, Copper River	Min of Begin Max of End	5/20 6/1	5/21 1/0	5/19 5/28	5/19 5/30	5/25 6/1	5/22 6/4	5/15 6/2
Ibeck Creek	Min of Begin Max of End				1/28 3/17		2/11 2/27	3/15 4/10
Scott River <i>Geberusst Slough</i>	Min of Begin Max of End				2/1 2/3			

**JD Johnson**

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**From:** Steve Moffitt [steve\_moffitt@fishgame.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2005 10:52 AM  
**To:** J D Johnson  
**Subject:** Eulachon documented upper limits

Jay,

The measured upper extents of adult eulachon distribution in streams on the delta are as follows:

Eyak River – To the water control structure at the lake outlet,  
Ibeck Creek – up the main channel to ~2 miles above the CR highway bridge,  
Scott River (main channel used for sand supply) - To ~200 m above the CR highway bridge,  
Alaganic Slough – To the outlet of McKinley Lake  
Copper River bridges BR334, BR339, and BR340 – Fish at least as far upstream as the CR highway bridges

The documented upper extent in the channels at Flag Point and BR342 (37-mile bridge) are in the BOF report.

Steve

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3/23/2005